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DOCKING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1952

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

and SURVEYOR

and the

Report of the

WATERWORKS SUPERINTENDENT

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DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE,
THE RECTORY, CHURCH STREET,
WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA, NORFOLK.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending 31st December, 1952

INTRODUCTION.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration, the Annual Report, on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1952.

The general health was good.

The Mass Radiography Unit that visited Hunstanton in November attracted considerable numbers from the District.

The Public Health Event of the year was the official opening on 15th May, 1952, of the Council's Water Supply Scheme carrying pure water to every village in the District: a great achievement for the health and comfort of the Public.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. JOHNSTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Docking Rural District Council.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

J. C. JOHNSTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor :

W. B. JENKINS, M.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

D. BUTTON, C.S.I.B.

G. ANDERSON, C.S.I.B.

Part Time Clerk :

MISS PULL

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

MISS M. HEWITT

Waterworks Superintendent :

J. R. DRYSDALE

PART I.

General Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1. STAFF.

There has been no change in Staff during the year.

2. INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Measles in its biennial epidemic phase was conspicuous with 403 notified cases, compared with 273 and 122, in 1950 and 1948 respectively. There were 55 notified cases of Whooping Cough. Apart from Measles and Whooping Cough there was no prominence of any other notifiable infectious disease.

The variations in the Tuberculosis Returns over the past 5 years are too slight to have any significance.

3. CANCER.

There were 35 deaths from Cancer compared with 37 in 1951.

4. SEWERAGE.

No change.

5. WATER.

See the Report of the Waterworks Superintendent.

6. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

Notices requiring pasteurisation of milk supplies were issued on 3 occasions, twice for Abortus infection, once for Tuberculosis.

7. FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, etc.

See the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

8. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The procedure under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, was used on one occasion, to effect the removal of an aged woman to St. James Hospital, King's Lynn, during November. She was living alone in insanitary conditions, and not receiving proper care and attention.

9. SHELLFISH.

A Survey was begun of the state of all the Mussel Layings in the District.

On 24th July a Joint Committee met at Wells to consider means of dealing with problems of sewage pollution of Mussels.

The Committee consisted of Representatives of :—

Docking Rural District Council
 Walsingham Rural District Council
 Hunstanton Urban District Council
 Wells Urban District Council
 Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee
 Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
 Ministry of Health.

It was agreed :—

- (a) That the Survey, already started should continue till a full report could be made on the state of all the Layings. From this it could be decided :—
- (b) if there were sufficient layings, not likely to be contaminated with sewage polluted water, to make a programme of relaying a practical proposition, for an ample production of mussels, that should consistently pass tests for fitness for human consumption. If not,
- (c) then consideration should be given to the selection of a site for the erection of a small experimental Cleansing Station.

10. MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit operating at Hunstanton from 18th till 24th November dealt with

		Males	Females	Total
(a)	Hunstanton Residents	... 259	298	557
(b)	Others	... 519	413	932
		—	—	—
		778	711	1,489
		—	—	—

It is a reasonable assumption that the majority of those who attended the Unit came from the Docking District, and they were made aware of the visit of the Unit, and enabled to take advantage of it through the advance publicity by the Council, the Voluntary organisations (St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society, Women's Voluntary Services) and the co-operation of employers.

11. CONCLUSION.

I would like to express my appreciation of the support given me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the constant sound advice and co-operation of the Clerk and the continued support and loyalty of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Waterworks Superintendent and Staff of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. JOHNSTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PART II.

(Medical Statistics)

Table 1. General Statistics.

Area (in Acres) ... ...	...	...	...	87,386
Estimated Resident Population ...	...	...	...	17,630
Rateable Value ... ...	...	...	...	£67,448
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	£270

Table 2. Live Births.

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	128	128	148	276
Illegitimate	12	12	6	18
Total	140	140	154	294

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 16.67

Table 3. Still Births.

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	2	2	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	1	1
Total	2	2	5	7

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 0.39

Table 4. Deaths (all ages).

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
	112	112	86	198

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 11.23

Table 5. Infant Mortality. (Deaths of Infants under One Year).

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	3	2	5
Illegitimate	2	2	—	2
Total	5	5	2	7

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 23.8

Table 6. Cause of Deaths of Infants under One Year.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
21. Other circulatory disease ...	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia ...	1	1	2
30. Pregnancy, chilbirth, abortion	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	—	1
Total ...	4	3	7

Table 7. Cause of Total Deaths.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	1	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	2	—	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uteris	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	13	6	19
16. Diabetes ...	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10	14	24
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	24	10	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	2	2
20. Other heart disease	15	16	31
21. Other circulatory disease	4	2	6
22. Influenza ...	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia ...	3	3	6
24. Bronchitis ...	4	3	7
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	4	—	4
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	4	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	—	2
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	13	14	27
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	4	—	4
34. All other accidents ...	4	1	5
35. Suicide ...	1	—	1
Total ...	112	86	198

Table 8. Deaths according to Ages. (Including Outward Transfers)

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	4	2	6
1 and under 5	...	1	—	1
5 " "	10	2	1	3
10 " "	20	1	2	3
20 " "	30	2	1	3
30 " "	40	2	1	3
40 " "	50	4	2	6
50 " "	60	7	9	16
60 " "	70	21	18	39
70 " "	80	42	31	73
80 " "	90	23	29	52
90 " "	100	4	8	12
Total ...	...	113	104	217
Total Adjusted	...	112	86	198

Table 9. Cancer.

The following table shows the incidence of Cancer Deaths during the past five years :—

		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Males	...	11	20	21	14	21
Females	...	15	20	18	23	14

Table 10. Summary of Vital Statistics.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Population	16,500	16,680	17,290	17,450	17,630
Live Births	291	263	299	288	294
Still Births	8	8	5	5	7
Deaths	198	226	209	255	198
Infant Mortality	5	7	11	11	7

Table 11. Summary of Births and Deaths Rates.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Live Births	17.7	15.76	17.29	15.87	16.67
Still Births	0.54	0.47	0.29	0.28	0.39
Crude Deaths	12.0	13.54	12.09	10.46	11.23
Infant Mortality	19.7	26.51	36.79	36.79	23.8

Table 12. Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1952. Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	<i>England</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London</i>	<i>160 smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)</i>	<i>Docking Rural District Council</i>
BIRTHS.					
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.5
Still Births	{ .35 22.6(a)	.43 24.6(a)	.36 23.0(a)
				Rates per 1,000 Population	
DEATHS.					
All causes	11.3	12.1	11.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			.00	.00	.00
Whooping Cough00	.00	.00
Diphtheria00	.00	.00
Tuberculosis24	.28	.22
Influenza04	.04	.04
Smallpox00	.00	.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)			.01	.01	.00
Pneumonia47	.52	.43
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected).					
Typhoid Fever00	.00	.00
Paratyphoid Fever02	.02	.03
Meningococcal Infection			.03	.03	.03
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57
Diphtheria01	.01	.03
Erysipelas14	.15	.12
Smallpox00	.00	.00
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49
Pneumonia72	.8	.62
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic06	.06	.06
Non-paralytic03	.03	.02
Food Poisoning13	.16	.11
Puerperal Pyrexia	17.87 (a)	23.94 (a)	10.22 (a)
DEATHS:					
All causes under 1 year of age...	27.6 (b)	31.2	25.8
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...			1.1	1.3	.5
				Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	
(a)				Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	
(b)				Per 1,000 Related Live Births.	

Table 13. Infectious Diseases. (According to age Group)

	Under One	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Age Un- known	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	10	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	4
Puerperal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infection	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	4
Total	—	—	1	1	—	11	3	—	2	6	2	—	1	27

Table 14. Measles and Whooping Cough.

		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Measles	...	122	51	273	23	403
Whooping Cough	...	72	35	58	31	55

Table 15. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases during 1952)

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	1
5	1	—	—	1
15	1	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	1
35	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	1	—	—
Total	6	4	0	3
Totals	10		3	
Grand Total		13		

Table 16. Tuberculosis. (Number of Cases on T.B. Register end 1952)

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	29	29	58
Non-Pulmonary	...	12	10	22
Total	...	41	39	80

Table 17. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases for last five years)

		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Pulmonary	... M.	6	3	7	5	6
	... F.	6	5	6	10	4
Non-Pulmonary	... M.	1	4	4	5	0
	... F.	5	1	4	4	3
Total	...	18	13	21	24	13

Table 18. Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

The following table shows the immunisation state of the children in the Local Health Office Area No. 8, comprising of Docking and Walsingham R.D.C.s and Wells and Hunstanton U.D.C.s at 31st December, 1952:—

	<i>Under School Age</i>	<i>School Age</i>	<i>Total</i>
Numbers Immunised	1,808 (1,841)	5,036 (4,340)	6,844 (6,181)
(1951 Figures in Parenthesis)			

PART III.

Annual Return of Senior Sanitary Inspector

Details of Inspections and Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.

1. INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

The number of inspections and visits made in connection with various branches of public health work during the year are as follows :—

Inspections coming within the purview of the Public Health Act, 1936, such as abatement of nuisances, water supplies, drainage work, bye-law requirements, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	416
Housing, for repairs, overcrowding, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	199
Interviewing applicants for Council Houses, prior to reporting to Tenants Selection Sub-Committee	...	...	...	...	...	181
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	30
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	26
Food Premises, for food inspection, bye-law and Food and Drugs Act requirements, including ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	178
Visits in connection with the administration of the Public Cleansing Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	643
Control of Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	97
Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	1191
Survey of Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	44
Survey of Shellfish lays, mussel and water sampling, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	44
Supervision of public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	154
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	259

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inquiries into cases of infectious diseases	...	...	84
Fumigations after infectious diseases	...	...	13

3. Water Supplies.

Number of Samples taken from Private Wells ... 23

Of these, 15 were satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory.

From the Public Supply, 11 samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

4. NOTICES, Preliminary.

The following preliminary notices were served requiring provisions of the various Acts or Regulations to be complied with :—

Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	23
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	34
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	...	...	...	...	6
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	8
Food and Drugs Act, 1949 and Food Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	36

5. NOTICES, Statutory.

Only one Statutory Notice was served during the year. This was under the Public Health Act, 1936 requiring that an occupied house should be provided with a satisfactory water supply.

All but one of the above-mentioned notices were complied with.

PART IV.

Annual Report of Waterworks Superintendent

• Waterworks Department,
Bircham Road,
Docking, King's Lynn.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith for your consideration my report for the period 1st November, 1951 to 31st December, 1952:—

1. PUMPING COSTS, etc.

Water Consumption.

Source	Galls.	Galls per day
Fring Boreholes from 1/11/51	32,383,000	76,000
Fring Boreholes via Booster to Docking Tower to April, 1952	3,016,000	18,000
Great Bircham Boreholes from 1st May, 1952	21,961,000	98,000
Hunstanton U.D.C. (in bulk)		For Heacham.

Pumping Costs and Electricity Consumed.

	Power Units	Heat Units	Total Cost £ s. d.	Cost per 1,000 gallons.
Fring Main Station				
Boreholes ...	57,834	2,599	533.15.7	4.1d.
Fring Booster Station				
Docking Tower ...	4,283	502	768.15.11	5.5d.
Great Bircham ...	46,263			
Hunstanton U.D.C. Part of year Meter out of action			... 10d.	

Storage.

With the completion of the District Scheme the total storage capacity is increased to 1,005,000 gallons., made up as follows:—

Reservoir, The Mount, Docking ...	...	400,000	gallons.
Water Tower, The Mount, Docking	...	225,000	gallons.
Water Tower, Docking Village ...	...	30,000	gallons.
Reservoir, Inmere ...	...	300,000	gallons.
Water Tower, Heacham ...	...	50,000	gallons.
Total		<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> 1,005,000	gallons.

Modifications to the Old Docking Village Tower have been carried out during the past year and the supply is now obtained direct from the New Water Tower situated at the Mount, Docking, and controlled by a float operated valve, this ensures that except during periods of maximum draw off a constant level is maintained and variation in pressure is negligible.

2. DISTRICT SCHEME—WATER SUPPLY.

The completion of the Council's District Water Supply Scheme during the year has enabled every village within the Rural District to obtain a mains water supply.

The Scheme, believed to be one of the largest of its kind in the country, was officially opened on 15th May, 1952, and we were honoured by the presence of representatives of numerous Public Bodies and Associations from many parts of the country.

The many consumers who availed themselves of the Council's Free Mains Connection Scheme are now, with very few exceptions, connected. In addition, a large number of trade supplies have been installed.

The great advantage of piped mains water is, even at this early stage, being realised by householders in the various villages and it is interesting to note that since the institution of the new Agreement Forms in September, 53 applications for supplies have been received.

Various samples taken throughout the District by the Public Health Department during the year for analysis, have all proved satisfactory.

3. MAINS EXTENSIONS.

Mains extensions have been carried out during the year to the following sites :—

North Creake, Dunn's Lane Housing site	approx.	160 yards
Heacham, Ringstead Road	...	...
Heacham, Church Farm ...	...	...
Docking Common	...	...
Brancaster, Public Conveniences and Golf Club House	...	approx. 1,200 yards

At Docking Common the supply was laid under the guaranteed income scheme and in order to keep expenses to a minimum, the excavation and backfilling of the trenches was organised by the consumers and their excellent co-operation enabled the supply to be completed in exceptionally quick time.

The supply to the Public Conveniences, Brancaster, necessitated laying a considerable length of pipe through marshy ground which frequently becomes covered by tidal waters. Consideration had, therefore, to be given to the use of corrosion resisting material. In co-operation and with the assistance of the manufacturers, the whole length of pipeline was laid in copper pipe and approximately 1,000 yards was laid through the marshes by "Mole Plough" method, which, I believe, is the first time this method has been used in this area and which proved not only of great interest but very beneficial under the exceptional circumstances.

4. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

Mains fractures have occurred at South Creake, Burnham Thorpe, Burnham Market and on the rising main from Great Bircham Pumping Station. The fractures had, in each instance, occurred within the maintenance period and were repaired by the Council's Contractors.

A brief summary of other maintenance duties carried out are as follows :—

Tap Washers fitted	...	...	...	...	400 approx.
Ball Valves repaired	...	...	...	...	180 approx.
Street Fountains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	43 approx.

Numerous service pipes have been repaired or renewed, meters changed and sluice valves repaired.

5. COMMUNICATION & SERVICE PIPE INSTALLATIONS.

The large number of applications for water supply connections received, necessitated two gangs being almost continuously engaged upon the installation of supplies during the past year, in addition to which the Council's Contractors have been responsible for carrying out a considerable volume of this work. Details are as follows :—

Communication pipes laid by Contractor	...	approx. 273
Communication pipes laid by D.R.D.C. Water Dept. Staff	...	approx. 127
Services completed by the D.R.D.C. Water Dept. Staff	...	approx. 312

6. GENERAL.

The area of supply has increased in size to approximately 140 square miles with over 100 miles of trunk and subsidiary mains to which some 29 parishes are connected. This has resulted in considerably more work for the Department.

In order that the many duties of the now much larger area might be efficiently dealt with, the Council decided that the Headquarters should be transferred from Snettisham to Docking and that Offices, Stores, Workshops and Staff Dwellings should be erected at the Mount.

Work was commenced on the erection of the two staff houses in November, 1951, and they were completed in August, 1952. Unfortunately, Government restrictions prevented the starting of the offices and workshops until July, 1952, since that date, however, good progress has been made and it is hoped that completion will be effected early in 1953. We shall then be in a position of being able to accommodate all stores and vehicles at one central Depot, which will be complete with well-equipped workshop. In addition it is hoped to provide Meter Testing and Repair Plant in order that the Council's rapidly increasing number of meters may be tested at regular intervals.

In view of the re-organisation of the Water Department, and as a temporary measure, the District Scheme Resident Engineer's Office at Docking was taken over for use by my Department and the provision of this accommodation has enabled us to deal with a large proportion of the administrative work direct from Docking.

The Staff of the Department has been augmented by the appointment of a Deputy Waterworks Superintendent and a Storekeeper/Clerk.

Mr. H. R. L. Strawbridge, Deputy Superintendent, was appointed and commenced duties with the Department in March, 1952, and Mr. W. A. Clark was transferred to the Department from the Clerk's Department. Both these officers are accommodated in Staff Dwellings at the Mount, Docking.

The Resident Engineer for the District Scheme, Mr. H. W. Lee, resigned his appointment in April, 1952, and since that date such duties as were necessary in connection with the day to day supervision of any works has been undertaken by the Water Department Staff.

A satisfactory supply has been maintained throughout this period except in the exceptional circumstances of bursts, etc., which have been remedied with a minimum of inconvenience.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks for the co-operation and assistance rendered to me by the Water Committee, the Clerk and Officers of the Council, all of whom have greatly assisted the carrying out of a busy year for my Department.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

J. R. DRYSDALE,
Waterworks Superintendent.

Docking Rural District Council—Water Department

STAFF

J. R. DRYSDALE, *Waterworks Superintendent*

H. R. L. STRAWBRIDGE, *Deputy Waterworks Superintendent*

J. NEWMAN, *Assistant Superintendent (Mains)*

W. A. CLARK, *Storekeeper / Clerk*

